

## Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus comprising:

a label reader capable of reading information from a  
label;

a communication unit capable of communicating information  
10 to one or more information interfaces;

an operation unit having one or more operational  
parameters that may be adjusted; and

a controller ,coupled the label reader, the communication  
unit and the operation unit, arranged to (1) receive information  
15 from the label reader, (2) send a request to one or more of the  
information interfaces through the communication unit, (3) receive a  
response from the information interface, and (4) adjust the  
operation parameters of the operation unit in accordance with the  
response,

20 where in the request and the response are formatted as  
documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized  
environment.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus and the information interface communicate in a client/server network.

5 3. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the documents comprise XML documents.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the XML documents are expressed as SOAP messages.

10 5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the operation unit comprises a consumer product-type apparatus.

15 6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a context sensor coupled to the controller.

20 7. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more information interface respond by sending a profile associated with label information contained within the request from the apparatus.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the label reader comprises an RFID reader or a barcode reader.

9. An apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operative read  
information from a tag, communicate the information to an  
5 information interface, receive a response from the information  
interface, and adjust an operation parameter of an operation unit in  
accordance with the response,

where in the request and the response are formatted as  
documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized  
10 environment.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the apparatus  
and the information interface communicate in a client/server  
network.

15 11. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the documents  
comprise XML documents.

12. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the XML  
20 documents are expressed as SOAP messages.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the operation  
unit comprises a consumer product-type apparatus.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a context sensor coupled to the controller.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the information interface responds by sending a profile associated with label information contained within the request from the apparatus.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a micro XML parser

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17. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the tag comprises an RFID or barcode tag.

18. A resource constrained device comprising:

means for reading tags;

communication means for communicating information read from the tags to a remote device;

receiving means for receiving a response comprising an XML document from the remote device, the receiving means including a micro XML parser;

operational means for performing a task, the operational means including adjustable operational parameters modifying the performance of the task;

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wherein the adjustable operational parameters are adjusted in accordance with the received response.

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19. The device according to Claim 18, wherein said means for reading comprises an RFID or barcode reader.

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